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piston, and an air induction system arranged to introduce air to the combustion chamber, the air induction system including a plenum chamber member defining a plenum chamber, an air intake passage connecting the plenum chamber to the combustion chamber, the plenum chamber member further defining an air inlet port for the plenum chamber, the plenum chamber member lying across the center plane, the air intake passage being disposed on one side of the center plane, and the air inlet port being disposed on the other side of the center plane.

27. (New) A watercraft comprising an internal combustion engine and a hull defining a center plane extending generally vertically from bow to stern, the internal combustion engine comprising a cylinder body defining a plurality of cylinder bores disposed one after another from bow to stern generally along the center plane, a cylinder head member closing an end of the respective cylinder bores and defining combustion chambers with the cylinder bores and the pistons, and an air induction system arranged to introduce air to the combustion chambers, the air induction system including a plenum chamber member defining a plenum chamber, a plurality of air intake passages connecting the plenum chamber to the respective combustion chamber, the air intake passages being disposed one after another from bow to stern generally along the center plane, the plenum chamber member further defining a plurality of air inlet ports for the plenum chamber, the air inlet ports being disposed one after another from bow to stern generally along the center plane, the plenum chamber member lying across the center plane, the air intake passages being disposed on one side of the center plane, and the air inlet ports being disposed on the other side of the center plane.

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COMMENTS

In further response to the Final Office Action mailed on August 2, 2002,, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1, 2 and 4-19. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the remaining pending claims of the above-captioned application in view of the following comments and the comments contained in the Amendment After Final that Applicants filed on November 4, 20002. In the Advisory Action (mailed November 21, 2002), the Examiner did not comment upon dependent Claims 22-25, which Applicants added via the